season, as against the normal free sale of 55%.

Information about the incentives, if any, offered by the State Government is not available.

News Item Captioned "7 PSUs Seek Massive Lay Offs."

3709. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "7 PSUs seek massive lay offs" appearing in the Economic Times Bangalore edition, dated July 19, 1991.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(c) the remedial steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government in the overall interest of thousands of employees of these Public Sector Undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Increase in Price of Newsprint

3710. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of newsprint has been increased in recent past; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details thereof are given in the statement attached. There is, at present, no statutory control over the prices of indigenous newsprint which are commercially determined by market factors. Prices of imported newsprint depend on procurement prices contracted by State Trading Corporation.

STATEMENT

I. *Prices of Indigenous Newsprint*: (*Rupees per MT*)

	NEPA Ltd.	*Hindustan Newsprint Ltd.*	*Mysore Papers Ltd.*	*Tamilnadu Newsprint & Papers Ltd.*
November, 1990	13,700 (52 GSM)	14585 (52 GSM) 15460 48/49 GSM)	15180 (52 GSN) 16090 (48/49 GSM)	16470 (49 GSM)
June, 1991	14,800 (52 GSM)	15335 (52GSM) 16255 (48/49 GSM)	16905 (48/49 GSM)	17270 (49 GSM)

II. *Prices of Imported Newsprint*:

	Standard	*Glazed*	*Bangladesh*
Jan.-March, 1991	12,260	17,645	11,335
April-June, 1991	13,000	18,735	12,050
July, 1991	16,000	23,300	14,800
August-Sept., 1991	16,000	23,300	14,800

*A surcharge of Rs. 800 PMT on Standard newsprint including Bangladesh and Rs. 2300 PMT on Glazed newsprint will be charged with effect from 1-8-1991.